

## APPENDIX A

### CONSIDERATIONS FOR NONSUPPLANT OF REGULAR PROGRAM

By law and tradition, Missouri school districts are expected to provide programs of instruction suitable for the full range of student ability, from handicapped and disadvantaged learners through those who are academically advanced. In 1973, the General Assembly recognized that there is a limited number of academically advanced students whose mental capacity and learning potential are so great that they could be classified as "gifted" and that these students need services beyond the level of those ordinarily provided. As a result, in 1973, the General Assembly authorized the state program for gifted students and provided for the partial reimbursement of the additional cost of instructional personnel and materials necessary to provide appropriate programs for those students. In so doing, the General Assembly did not intend to diminish in any way the regular program of instruction or to support existing programs for the academically advanced (superior) students. The intent was clearly to support special efforts to improve the educational opportunities available for students who are identified as gifted. To ensure that a gifted program does not supplant the regular program offered or expected in a school district for academically advanced students, all state-assisted gifted programs must meet the following criteria:

1. The state-assisted gifted program must consist of curricular offerings which do not replace those offered previously for academically advanced (superior) students in the school district's instructional program and which are qualitatively different from those normally expected for superior students;
2. The state-assisted gifted program shall be designed to teach content and processes which differ from regular and advanced offerings of the school district (content, methods and objectives must be beyond those offered advanced students in the regular curriculum); and
3. The state-assisted gifted program must represent an actual increase in district expenditures for instructional staff and for special materials. For example, the state-assisted gifted program must:
  - a) Require additional teacher assignments for the instructional time for which special state aid for the gifted program is requested; and
  - b) Increase the school's cost beyond the cost of the regular instructional program (including out-of-contract time).

Any decrease in the staff employed in the school's regular instructional program (as measured by the teacher-pupil ratio) must be attributable to factors other than the state-assisted gifted program. It is the school district's responsibility to provide such an explanation.

4. Class or group sizes within the gifted program should not exceed 15 nor be less than 5, with an average of 10 students per class.